

little mixed up as far as academics and athletics. But I also happen to believe that athletics is an important part of the total educational process. Number one, I think it provides an opportunity for people to learn about the competition, losing, winning, all those kinds of things, a lot of social activity along with it, but it also and more importantly gives some people an opportunity to go to school to start with and to stay in school once they get there. The state colleges have a very good athletic program, Kearney State, for example. There would not be an awfully lot of folks, in my opinion, that would stay in school and get an education were it not for some athletic program to entice them in there to start with. So I have some real concern that the state colleges and that the University, and I hope Senator Warner is correct, that those institutions will be able to use those cuts in maybe better areas. I know for a fact that there are many people...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR VICKERS: ...that that athletic program has contributed to their well being in their life later on. As a matter of fact, we have one of the members of our own body that stands up and opposes me periodically on areas of education when I talk about vocational training and Senator Beutler wants to talk about academic training and how important academic training is but nevertheless I think most of you know that Senator Beutler did play intercollegiate athletic football when he was in college. Now it doesn't appear to me that it must have changed his attitude as far as the importance of academics. I think he must have still got his academic training. And I am not sure that that kept Senator Beutler in school or helped give him some incentive, but I know that it does a lot of people. And I have some real concern that we might be sending the wrong message with this particular cut. Again, I guess I would have felt a lot better had this cut been more general in nature instead of directed specifically at intercollegiate athletics. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Tim Hall, I would recognize you. We must break for lunch. We have several speakers and we will pick up after lunch with Senator Hall, Senator DeCamp, Senator Haberman, Senator Chambers and Senator Higgins, in that order. Senator Hall.